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I.—Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom.

THE Council of the Society have determined to publish, with the assent of Mr. Robert Hunt, F.R.S., an annual abstract of the

quantity and value of the mineral produce of the kingdom.

The particulars will be drawn from the series of reports which were originated by the individual exertions of Mr. Hunt some years ago, and have been continued to the present time by the same influence. It is the intention of the Council to present the statistics hereafter in the concise form in which they appear at p. 244, et seq., and as part of the periodical tables which form the Appendix to the quarterly numbers of the Journal.

Table I will be assigned to a general summary of the quantity and value of the mineral produce.

,, II will be assigned to coal.
,, III ,, iron.
,, IV ,, tin.
,, V ,, copper.
,, VI ,, lead and silver.
,, VII ,, zinc and iron pyrites.
,, VIII ,, salt.

Besides the general summary, shown hereafter at p. 244, Mr. Hunt has given in his reports the "absolute total value of the metals and coal and other minerals;" the figures for the three years ended 1867, are these:—

	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£	£	£
Value of the metals produced from the mines of the United Kingdom	15,773,000	14,938,000	
Value of coal	24,538,000	25,408,000 1,350,000	26,125,000 2,168,000
Total	41,745,000	41,696,000	43,480,000

II.—Local Taxation in England and Wales.

THE most complete account of the principal section of the local taxation of the Kingdom hitherto published, has been recently prepared for Parliament by the Poor Law Board. Local taxes are gathered from three sources—1, from real property; 2, from the traffic of persons and things; 3, from consumable articles, coals and wine within the jurisdiction of the City of London. About four-fifths of the aggregate of the local taxation of England and Wales is incident upon real property. It is this part only which is represented by the voluminous blue book laid upon the table of the House in answer to an order obtained on the motion of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It appears from this document that the whole amount of local taxes incident on real property levied in 1868 throughout the kingdom was 16,660,459L, thus discriminated in the return—

	£
1. Amount levied for poor rate	11,061,502*
2. Amount levied for the following separate rates, which in some cases are not paid out of poor rate, viz., county rate, hundred rate, borough rate, and police rate	307,232
3. Highway rate, separately levied	916,779
4. Church rates	217,083
5. Lighting and watching rate	76,978
6. Improvement Commissioners	445,431
7. General district rates under Public Health Acts	1,736,247
8. Rates under Courts of Commissioners of Sewers, including drainage and embankment rates	695,810
9. Rates of other kinds	1,203,397

The gross estimated rental was 118,334,000l., and the rateable value 100,613,000l.; on the latter amount these rates were levied. The whole sum raised in the year was equivalent to 3s. $3\frac{3}{4}d$. in the pound of rateable value.

The valuation of 1868 is the sixth more or less perfect assessment we have for all England and Wales: it may be useful to exhibit the figures for each year.

	Local Tax	Valuations.
Years.	Gross Estimated Rental.	Rateable Value.
	£	£
1840-41	Not known	62,540,030
'46–47	**	67,320,587
'49–50	,,	67,700,153
'55–56	86,077,676	71,840,271
'65–66	110,079,308	93,638,403
'67–68	118,334,081	100,612,734

^{*} This total not only includes the sum levied for the relief of the poor, but the contribution paid out of the poor rate to the county, hundred, borough, and police rates; to highway and burial boards, to commissioners of baths and washhouses and fire brigade, registration and vaccination fees, and all other expenses paid out of the poor rate.

[†] This total includes a sum of 981,140l. for general and lighting rates levied in the metropolitan district.

Half the rates falling on real property go to the relief of the poor and expenses contingent on pauperism. In this relation the subjoined table may be serviceable, and, as exhibiting the great development of relief since 1859, suggestive:—

Years ended Total Expenditure from Poor Rates and		Whereof was Expended for			
with Lady-day.	from Sums Received in Aid of Rates.	Relief of the Poor Only.	County and Police Rates.	Highway Boards, 27 and 28 Vict., Cap. 101, Sec. 33.	
	£	£	£	£	
1859	8,149,455	5,558,689	1,915,255	_	
'60	8,075,904	5,454,964	1,936,549	_	
'61	8,395,212	5,778,943	1,925,210	_	
'62	8,806,074	6,077,922	2,026,916	_	
'63	9,325,072	6,527,036	2,075,468		
'64	9,680,480	6,423,381	2,163,290		
'65	9,792,158	6,264,966	2,133,290	550,976	
'66	9,989,120	6,439,517	2,209,184	578,494	
'67	10,905,173	6,959,840	2,511,511	595,699	
'68	11,380,593	7,498,059	2,456,578	614,893	

In the Summary A, p. 218, the local taxation for each county is separately shown, the counties taking rank according to the pressure of the rate. In the Summary B, p. 220, similar particulars are displayed for the London unions and parishes, the arrangement, however, is here topographical, that the burden may be better shown as it bears upon the different metropolitan districts.

The poor rates levied in the metropolis during the ten years, together with the expenditure for the poor and for county and police rates, is given below:—

Years ended Total Expenditure from Poor Rates and		Whereof was Expended for			
with Lady-day.	from Sums Received in Aid of Rates.	Relief of the Poor Only.	County, Borough, and Police Rates.	Highway Boards, 27 and 28 Vict., Cap. 101, Sec. 33.	
	£	£	£	£	
1859	1,354,711	814,646	405,829		
'60	1,358,561	796,423	417,455	_	
'61	1,392,884	832,155	425,495	_	
'62	1,450,563	872,070	447,963		
'63	1,466,997	868,198	468,471		
'64	1,489,732	876,290	472,755	_	
'65	1,512,265	905,640	472,832	246	
'66	1,611,055	976,262	495,269	283	
'67	1,844,765	1,175,363	504,728	159	
'68	2,046,466	1,316,759	559,632	412	

A .- Local Taxation incident on Real Property in England and Wales.

Counties, Arranged according to	[000's c	Raised a		Total Amount Raised as	the l	te in Pound	
the Rate in the Pound.	Area in Acres.	Population, 1861.	Gross Estimated Rental.	Rateable Value.	Local Taxes in the Perochial Year 1868.	Rat	on enble lue.
1. Cardigan	443,	72,	£ 206,260	£ 173,471	£ 39,543	s. 4	d. 634
2. Anglesey	194,	55,	186,476	164,515	36,974	4	6
3. Surrey	479,	831,	5,668,635	4,555,798	1,023,196	4	6
4. Sussex	937,	364,	2,292,971	1,998,680	405,389	4	$-\frac{3}{4}$
5. Carnarvon	37 0,	96,	363,652	305,766	61,595	4	-1
6. Huntingdon	230,	64,	475,406	424,976	85,376	4	-14
7. Middlesex	180,	2,207,	17,309,950	14,326,023	2,850,138	3	I I 3
8. Southampton	1,070,	482,	2,432,656	2,035,172	395,583	3	103
9. York, West Riding	1,709,	1,508,	7,089,127	5,900,819	1,118,190	3	91
10. Cambridge	525,	176,	1,256,700	1,064,216	199,424	3	9
11. Kent	1,040,	734,	4,592,717	3,818,159	716,166	3	9
12. Glamorgan	548,	318,	1,664,050	1,410,561	260,094	3	81
13. Monmouth	368,	175,	831,370	680,367	120,381	3	6 1
14. Bedford	296,	135,	694,799	611,529	106,596	3	5 3
15. Merioneth	385,	39,	190,282	158,892	26,762	3	$4^{\frac{1}{2}}$
16. Lancaster	1,219,	2,429,	12,545,511	10,720,907	1,794,396	3	41
17. Dorset	632,	189,	1,069,386	915,574	152,694	3	4
18. Gloucester	805,	486,	2,768,541	2,393,938	397,252	3	3 ⁸ *
19. Devon	1,657,	584,	2,963,349	2,481,687	408,084	3	31/2
20. Cornwall	874,	369,	1,326,070	1,150,213	185,141	3	2 3
21. Essex	1,061,	405,	2,596,584	2,226,503	356,944	3	21/2
22. Wilts	865,	249,	1,636,691	1,404,634	224,994	3	21
23. Bucks	467'	168,	1,096,185	949,175	151,208	3	21
24. Carmarthen	606,	112,	483,227	428,976	67,393	3	1 3
25. Berks	451,	176,	1,217,366	1,020,127	157,360	3	1
26. Brecknock	460,	62,	274,999	244,045	37,600	3	1
27. Norfolk	1,354,	435,	2,644,422	2,294,685	353,406	3	1
28. Oxford	473,	176,	1,121,304	956,795	147,053	3	1

^{*} The medium county.

A.—Local Taxation incident on Real Property—Contd.

Counties Arranged according to	[000's	[0'0's omitted.] Valuation.			Total Amount Raised as	Rate in the Pound
the Rate in the Pound.	Area in Acres.	Population, 1861.	Gross Estimated Rental.	oss Estimated Rateable Value.		on Rateable Value.
29. Pembroke	402,	96,	£ 416,445	£ 362,188	£ 55,923	s. d. 3 I
30. Nottingham	526,	294,	1,560,304	1,381,104	212,127	3 - 3
31. Herts	391,	173,	1,104,088	940,028	142,511	3 -1/2
32. Flint	185,	70,	368,768	322,372	48,802	3 -1
33. Lincoln	1,775,	412,	3,196,146	2,850,624	430,933	3 -1/4
34. Durham	623,	509,	2,649,653	2,219,935	333,859	3 -
35. Denbigh	386,	101,	475,770	412,014	61,324	2 II3
36. Northampton	630,	228,	1,568,727	1,355,519	201,725	2 II 3
37. Radnor	272,	25,	162,757	141,401	21,056	2 II 8
38. Suffolk	948,	337,	1,925,293	1,663,225	245,622	2 112
39. Worcester	472,	307,	1,705,499	1,472,467	203,619	2 91
40. Somerset	1,047,	445,	2,863,505	2,534,125	349,020	29
41. Chester	707,	505,	2,846,743	2,485,812	340,242	2 8 3
42. Stafford	729,	747,	3,519,882	2,920,896	392,476	2 81/4
43. Montgomery	483,	67,	376,047	331,932	44,042	2 74
44. Leicester	514,	237,	1,555,109	1,322,202	173,854	2 73
45. Hereford	535,	124,	954,899	826,932	106,212	2 6 3
46. York, East Riding	771,	280,	1,941,195	1,670,705	211,633	2 6½
47. Warwick	564,	562,	3,074,725	2,577,223	323,911	2 6 1
48. Rutland	96,	22,	179,531	159,979	19,004	2 41/2
49. York, North Riding	1,350,	245,	1,848,007	1,622,400	192,215	2 41/2
50. Derby	659,	339,	1,750,610	1,504,896	174,888	2 4
51. Cumberland	1,001,	205,	1,218,399	1,069,205	123,784	2 3 4
52. Northumberland	1,249,	343,	2,056,050	1,832,137	201,505	2 2 2 2
53. Salop	826,	241,	1,558,265	1,414,575	140,511	1 118
54. Westmoreland	486,	61,	458,978	402,635	30,729	1 6 1
Total—England and Wales	37,325,	20,066,	118,334,081	100,612,734	16,660,459	3 3 4

B.—Local Taxation incident on Real Property in the Metropolis.

		[000's omitted.]		ation.	Total	Rate in the Pound	Rate
Unions and Single Parishes.	Area in Acres.	Popu- lation in 1861.	Gross Estimated Rental. Rateable Value.		Raised as Local Taxes.	on Rateable Value.	per Head on Population.
WEST DISTRICT.			£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.
Kensington	1,942	70,	813,791	739,810	110,357	3 -	31 6
Fulham	4,155	40,	329,359	271,198	63,491	4 81/4	31 8
Paddington	1,245	76,	987,581	740,686	115,416	3 11/2	30 5
Chelsea	865	63,	335,952	279,960	66,141	4 83	20 10
St. George, Hanover Square	1,161	88,	970,996	882,724	117,544	2 8	26 9
St. Margaret and St. John	917	68,	508,125	461,932	76,478	3 3 3 2	22 5
Westminster	217	53,	617,715	531,221	95,278	3 7	26 2
North District.							
St. Marylebone	1,590	162,	1,128,950	T 01# 0#1	187,203	. 01	
Hampstead	2,252	19,	270,288	1,017,073	38,669	3 81	23 2
St. Pancras	2,716	199,		215,564	242,563	3 74	40 5
Islington	3,127	155,	1,258,548	1,069,766	157,812	4 6½	24 5
Hackney	3,929	83,		852,353	112,511	3 8½ 6 -½	20 3
Tracking	0,020	30,	597,190	510,407	112,511	6 -1/2	27 1
CENTRAL DISTRICT.							
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	245	54,	302,086	254,819	58,994	4 7½	21 9
Strand	419	48,	605,635	463,683	101,516	4 43	42 2
Holborn	164	44,	231,877	190,719	46,166	4 101	20 10
Clerkenwell	380	66,	286,903	231,022	52,703	4 63	16 5
St. Luke's	220	57,	271,149	228,092	55,455	4 101	19 5
East London*	153	41,	246,954	200,420	36,733	3 87	18 -?
West ,, *	122	27,	205,407	136,969	28,958	4 239	21 5?
City of ,, *	434	4 6,	2,263,146	1,811,457	294,979	3 349	120 10?

^{*} Some of the rates collected over the whole area of the city have not been apportioned among the three City Unions but placed in the lump against the City of London Union.

B.—Local Taxation incident on Real Property—Contd.

	[000's Valuation.		stion.	Total	Rate in the Pound	Rate	
Unions and Single Parishes.	Area in Acres.	Popu- lation in 1861.	Gross Estimated Rental.	Rateable Value.	Raised as Local Taxes.	on Rateable Value.	per Head on Population.
EAST DISTRICT.			£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.
Shoreditch	646	129,	537,804	366,240	108,074	5 10 3	16 8
Bethnal Green	760	105,	329,946	223,188	85,166	$7 7^{\frac{1}{2}}$	16 2,
Whitechapel	406	78,	338,326	285,700	85,374	5 11 3	21 10
St. George-in-the-East	243	49,	227,348	184,799	71,819	7 91/4	29 5
Stepney	576	57,	302,721	246,598	80,110	6 6	28 4
Mile End Old Town	681	73,	290,223	241,853	50,999	4 234	13 11
Poplar	2,918	79,	605,190	480,740	137,247	5 8½	3 4 7
SOUTH DISTRICT.							
St. Saviour's, Southwark	250	36,	296,905	226,227	46,467	4 1 ¹ / ₄	² 5 9
St. Olave's "	169	19,	155,812	123,226	26,696	4 4	28 -
Bermondsey	688	58,	295,137	252,786	50,803	4 -1/4	17 4
St. George's, Southwark	282	56,	209,586	167,669	51,477	6 1½	18 6
Newington	624	82,	29.3,498	234,784	68,610	5 10	16 8
Lambeth	4,015	162,	962,481	786,482	196,425	5 -	24 2
Wandsworth and Clap- ham}	11,695	70,	730,219	596,703	127,452	4 3 4	36 2
Camberwell	4,342	71,	500,353	386,638	97,552	$5 - \frac{1}{2}$	27 4
Rotherhithe	886	25,	169,608	117,561	33,998	$5 9^{\frac{1}{2}}$	27 9
Greenwich	3,771	86,	433,825	353,072	108,472	6 1 3	25 3
Woolwich	7,408	76,	319,174	256,133	62,285	4 104	16 6
Lewisham	11,412	32,	391,573	298,840	53,148	3 6½	33 2
Total of the metropolis	77,944	2,802,	21,686,822	16,918,114	3,501,141	4 I ³ / ₄	24 11

Note.—There are besides the unions and parishes above, several places for the first time called upon to contribute to the relief of the poor by the Order of the Poor Law Board, dated 11th December, 1868, viz., the Charter House, Gray's Inn, the Close of St. Peter, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, and Lincoln's Inn, having an aggregate rateable value of 66,1661.

III.—Annual Science Examinations, 1868-69.

"The annual science examinations of the Science and Art Department were brought to a close on Saturday, the 29th of May, 1869. This was the ninth general examination that has been held since the establishment of the system of aid to instruction in science in 1859. The examinations are superintended by local committees. They were in this way held at 437 centres in 1869, while last year they were only held at 261. In 1868 there were about 15,000 students under instruction, this year there were 25,000, and the number of papers worked shows a similar increase, having risen from 13,112 to 23,997. The number of candidates in the various subjects was as follows:—

Subjects, &c.	18	69.	1868.		
Subjects, &c.	Number.	Ratio.	Number.	Ratio.	
		Per cnt.		Per cnt.	
Geometrical drawing	2,547	10.6	1,337	10°2	
Machine "	2,997	12.5	1,671	12.7	
Building and naval architecture	1,993	8.3	1,206	9.2	
Elementary mathematics	2,302	9.6	1,390	10.6	
Higher ,,	85	•4	33	•2	
Higher ", "	631	2.6	353	2.7	
Applied ,,		1.5	167	1,3	
Acoustics, light, and heat	1,350	5.6	769	5.9	
Magnetism and electricity		10.3	1,038	7.9	
Inorganic chemistry	2,166	9.0	964	7.3	
Organic ,,	210	·9	123	7.9	
Geology		2.2	3 09	2.4	
Mineralogy		.3	38	3	
Animal physiology	2,227	9.3	1,182	9.0	
Zoology	303	1.3	298	2.3	
Vegetable anatomy and physiology	144	1 .6	112	7.8	
Systematic and economic botany	90	1 .4	73	.6	
Mining		·T	41	.3	
Metallurgy	120	.5	81	1 .6	
Navigation	303	1.3	219	1.7	
Nautical astronomy	107	4	86	1 .7	
Steam	148	1 .7	106	1 .8	
Physical Geography		11.5	1,516	11.2	
				5	
	23,997	100,0	13,112	100,0	

[&]quot;This is the first examination at which the scholarships of 100l. per annum founded by Mr. Whitworth, have been competed for. There have been about 120 candidates for them, and as soon as the results of all the theoretical examinations have been made known the practical examination will be proceeded with in the manner detailed in the minute of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education."

IV .- Statistics of Life Assurance Offices.

EXTRACTED from the Pall Mall Gazette, 4th June:-

[&]quot;An account of the life assurance companies registered since 1844 has been obtained upon the motion of the parliamentary secretary to the Board of Trade.

Mr. Lefevre's return only embraces a few pages, and is destitute of totals, though the statistics could have been easily supplemented with a brief and useful summary. Within the period of the paper, 267 companies have been registered, the major part under the 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 110—the Act of 1844; the others under the 25 and 26 Vict., cap. 89—the Act of 1862. Forty-three of the number have been amalgamated with other companies during the years 1844-68. The paid-up capital of the offices which, finding themselves too weak on the legs to stand alone, were amalgamated with stronger enterprises, amounted to 382,479l.; the 'subscribed' capital being a very much larger sum. In one instance of a transferred business we note the paid-up capital was 10,658l., but the 'subscribed' was 248,500l.

"Thirteen of the absorbed companies are described as mutual companies, having no capital in the sense of the order under which the return was made. The average capital of the other thirty companies would therefore be 12,750*l.* apiece. The lowest capital held by a company at the time of transfer was 109*l.*; the highest, 91,960*l.*

"The last amalgamation recorded in Mr. Lefevre's paper is that of the Non-Tariff Insurance Company (Limited), formerly called the Hercules Fire and Life Insurance Company (Limited), which, with a nominal capital of 100,000l., 40,000l. subscribed, and 9,390l. paid up, had its 'business transferred to the Hercules Insurance Company (Limited)' in March, 1867.

"Besides those concerns which have been joined to other offices, a very large number—no less than 148—of the companies recognised by the return, have, in the words of the tabular heading, 'wound up, or supposed to have ceased business.' Hence, only 76, if we read the statement aright, out of the 267 registered life assurance companies now exist. This remarkable fact gives some sort of measure of the risks to which unwary insurers may be exposed. There are also five companies ('previously existing') that were registered under the Companies' Act of 1862, with a view to winding up; add these to the totals just given, and it then appears that during twenty-four years no less than 196 offices have either died out or been absorbed."

V.—The House of Lords in 1869.

THE Daily News has the following:—

"The House of Lords, as at present constituted, consists of about 460 members, of whom 15 are minors. Deducting the Irish and the Scotch representative peers and the prelates, the number of hereditary peerages is 389, and of these the large majority are the creations of the present century. Of the barons who responded to the writs of summons issued by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, 600 years ago, the descendants of three only now sit in the Upper House. They are Lords Hastings, De Ros, and Audley, the baronies of the two former dating from 1264, and that of the latter from 1296. The surviving peerages, which are creations of the fourteenth century, are four, viz., the baronies of Camoys, Clinton, Dacre, and Willoughby de Eresby. The peerages of the fifteenth century now represented are seven; of the sixteenth, 12; of the seventeenth, 35; of the eighteenth, 95; and of the nineteenth, 233. The surviving peerages, however, bear little comparison to the number of creations. When Earl Grey came into power in November, 1830, he was called upon to contend with a body which, scarcely without interruption, from the administration of Lord Bute to that of the Duke of Wellington, had been recruited through nearly seventy years of Tory rule. Sir Erskine May has stated that, from 1760 to 1830, more than 400 peerages had been created. The actual number made within the reign of George III, was 388, and during the seventeen years of Mr. Pitt's premiership upwards of 140 new patents were issued. Within two years the same minister had either created or promoted 35 new peers. A large number of these names have, however, dropped from the roll of the House of Lords, for on an average more than twenty peers die annually, and three or four peerages become extinct every year.

"It is not surprising than when the Whigs found themselves in office in 1830, they at once began to redress in some degree the enormous disparity in the numbers of the rival parties in the House of Lords. The subjoined tabular statement shows the number of creations and promotions in the peerage made by each minister from Earl Grev's accession to power to the present time:

	Dukes.	Marquises.	Earls.	Viscounts.	Barons.	Totais.
Earl Grey Viscount Melbourne Sir R. Peel Earl Russell Viscount Palmerston Earl of Derby Mr. Disraeli Mr. Gladstone		2 1 	7 7 2 5 3 2 1	3 2 1 1	23 31 6 16 19 22 1 3	34 39 11 24 23 25 4
	3	4	27	8	121	163

"The Liberal party have been in power during two-thirds of this period, and have created 123 peers as against 40 on the part of their opponents, yet they are still in a minority in the House of Lords. It should, however, be explained that although in less than forty years 163 new patents have been issued, the whole of them were not absolute additions to the strength of the peerage. In the majority of instances the dukes have been recruited from the ranks of the marquises, the marquises from the earls, the earls from the viscounts, and the viscounts from the barons. Rare instances occur in which a commoner at once receives an earldom, such as in the case of Lord John Russell. A retiring Speaker of the House of Commons generally receives a viscountcy, but as a rule the rank of baron of the United Kingdom is that by which an outsider enters the House of Lords.

"The list above given is irrespective of the peers' eldest sons, who have been called to the Upper House in the lifetimes of their fathers. The Marquis of Anglesey was called up as Lord Paget in 1832, by Earl Grey; the Marquis of Ailesbury, as Lord Bruce, in 1839, by Lord Melbourne; the Earl of Lonsdale, as Lord Lowther, in 1841, by Sir Robert Peel; the Earl Derby, as Lord Stanley, in 1844, by Sir Robert Peel; Lord Stanley of Alderley, as Lord Eddisbury, in 1848, by Earl Russell; Earl Strafford, as Lord Strafford, in 1853, by the Earl of Aberdeen; the Earl of Tankerville, as Lord Ossulston, in 1859, by the Earl of Derby; Earl Fortescue, as Lord Fortescue, in 1859, by Viscount Palmerston; and Earl St. Maur, in 1863, as Lord Seymour, also by Lord Palmerston.

"The calling up of Lord Strafford by the Earl of Aberdeen was the only patent of peerage conferred by that nobleman during his tenure of office, a period which extended over more than two years. Even his chancellor, Lord Cranworth, had been a member of the Upper House two years before his appointment to the woolsack."

VI.—Agriculture in France.

From the Pall Mall Gazette of 28th May, 1869:—

"The consideration of the land question in Ireland has, by mutual consent, been deferred till next session, when the battle will again rage between the advocates of small and those of large holdings. The intervening time may well be

spent in considering such information as foreign countries may afford us. We would commend to the attention of both parties the report of a commission appointed by the French Government in the year 1866 to inquire generally into the condition of French agriculture. The commission began by distributing a series of questions through the twenty-eight districts into which France was divided for the purposes of this inquiry. The answers thereto, supplemented by verbal evidence, as well on the condition of France as of other countries, have now appeared in the shape of an imperial blue book.* M. J. de Monny de Mornay, the chief commissioner, contributes a valuable preface in which all the material facts may be found.

"He divides agricultural property into three classes. First, large estates of over 250 acres. These are few in number in most departments, and make up but a small proportion of the holdings in France. The only check upon their diminution is the desire of the successful merchant or manufacturer to become a landed proprietor. Secondly, an intermediate class between the first class and that of the small proprietor. These also have a tendency to diminish in number. They are farmed either by the owner or by tenants at a money rent, or on the métayer system. The third class is the most numerous, and is ever on the increase. The small proprietors, with the assistance of the agricultural labourer, of whom it is calculated 75 per cent. are landowners, eat up the fragments from the other two classes. Their intense desire to add field to field, leads them to spend their capital rather in the purchase of more land than in the improvement of what they already possess. For this reason, too, land which is sold in large blocks, or which is unfitted for cultivation on a small scale, fetches comparatively a less price than land sold in lots suited to the pocket of the small proprietor.

"Subdivision, it appears, has reached an incredible pitch. Parcels of land, in the eastern parts especially, are sometimes of one or two roods only, and even of a less extent; and not unfrequently parcels in the possession of one man lie at a distance of several kilometres from each other. As a kilometre is rather more than half a mile, one is inclined at first to think the commissioner's language may be exaggerated, but it is supported in some measure by a statement we find in another part of the report, that in one commune of the department of the Meuse, 270 owners hold in all 832 hectares, which is divided into 5,348 different plots. This gives an average out of about 2,080 acres of rather more than half an acre to each plot, and of two acres and two-thirds to each landowner. At the same time, it is an error to attribute, as is commonly done, this state of things entirely to modern legislation. Documents in the hands of the commission show that subdivision was in full force in the sixteenth century.

"The small holder who tills his land for the most part by his personal labour alone, undoubtedly secures to himself some substantial advantages. Acre for acre he produces more, and may so be said to be more successful (putting out of sight the amount of labour expended) than the larger owner. His untiring exertions are rewarded by a greater return than those of hired labour, and the dearness and scarcity of labour and general want of capital do not come so home to his class as to the classes above him. His conditions of life, like those of the agricultural class throughout Europe, have generally improved, and it is agreed on all hands that he is better housed, clad, and fed than he was thirty years ago. The commissioner, therefore, is probably correct in thinking subdivision, or diffusion of property in land, a guarantee for internal peace and a mark of general well-being; but at the same time he is alive to its concomitant evils. The complaints which crop up in the report may, in our opinion, and we strongly suspect in that of M. de Mornay, be fairly traced to the effects of this system of subdivision, which, as the commissioner says, is the keynote of the report. Various remedies and palliatives to check the further progress of subdivision were suggested in the course of the inquiry.

^{* &}quot;Rapport à S. E. M. Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat au Département de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics. (Paris: Imprimerie Impériale.)"

- "As the law stands at present, a parent has a power of disposition by will over but a small part of his property, varying in amount with the number of his children; but of the rest each child is entitled to have his equal share in specie. Thus a division of the goods to one and the land to another, though the shares may be equal in value, is voidable. Again, a division by a parent of his property in his lifetime, is voidable anytime within ten years from the death of the parent. Add to this that the jealousy of the agriculturist insists on dividing each patch of land of which the property may be composed, and the extreme subdivision ceases to be a marvel. From Puy de Dome comes a suggestion to give a power of disposition by will over the whole property. The new departments of Savoy regret the Sardinian code, by which the sons and daughters on the spot divide the land, while the absent get their shares in goods or money. In the south, ancient custom, in accordance with which the eldest son takes the land, indemnifying his co-heirs, being still in force, is a fruitful source of litigation. Others propose that the Legislature should forbid subdivision below a certain point, and, if necessary, compel a sale of the land.
- "The commissioners report that the equal division of property is still very popular, and that, therefore, none of these suggestions meet with universal approval, but that a law facilitating the exchange of contiguous plots at a diminished duty, would be generally acceptable. It is hoped, in this way, to remedy some of the evils of subdivision.
- "Where the parcels are so small, every furrow is valuable, and great quarrels arise from the indefiniteness of the boundaries. It is difficult, too, to provide sufficient means of access, as each owner is unwilling to cede any portion of his land for a road or path. One remedy proposed is to make a new survey by means of engineers, who shall have power to lay down the boundaries definitely; the expense, in part, is to be borne by Government. Where the experiment has been tried, though at a cost of 21 frs. a hectare (2½ acres), the results have been satisfactory.
- Rents have generally risen even where the market value of the land has fallen. The reason given for this is that the farmers, having learnt no other means of livelihood, are compelled to accede to the terms imposed on them by the landlords. The commissioner remarks that if this were true, failures would have become more frequent among farmers; whereas, in the opinion of the commission, the condition of the farmers has improved. The solution of the problem would seem to be that a farmer gets a better return for his capital as tenant, than as landowner, and is therefore able and willing to pay for the privilege of being a tenant.
- "A general demand is made for longer leases: that in the absence of special agreement a lease shall be considered to be for twelve years, whereas by the present law a parol lease is only taken to be for so long a period as will allow the tenant to reap the fruits of the land demised; as in the case of a vineyard or meadow for one year, or in the case of arable land till the end of the course of crops.
- "Furthermore, they suggest a compensation clause, to be obligatory in every lease, by which the farmer, if his lease suddenly terminate, will be able to demand compensation for any unexhausted improvements. It appears, says the commissioner, that such a system exists in England, and its excellence is well established."

VII.—Church Schools in England and Wales, 1867.

"The Statistical Report presented to the National Society (Westminster), on the numerical state of Church Schools throughout the country, has just made its appearance. The information is made to fall into three sections, each of which is distinct in character. The first part of the Report is a general survey of the Parishes and other ecclesiastical districts of the country in reference to Church Schools. For example, we are at once informed how many parishes there are in England and Wales which have not parochial schools, but which are nevertheless

supplied with the means of education by Church Schools in adjoining parishes, this number being 1,355. Of course, it is not every parish which requires a separate school; for instance, each of the thirty-six parishes in Norwich does not need a distinct educational establishment. In Exeter, Colchester, York, Chichester, and other places there are large 'central' schools serving the wants of several parishes. Again, many little country parishes have too few inhabitants to need separate schools and teachers. In London, or rather the city portion of it, there are several sets of schools, and others termed 'ward' schools, which supply the educational requirements of several parochial districts. The framers of the Report have even gone into the question of maximum distance walked by the young persons who obtain their education in adjoining places. This distance varies. The proportions are as follows:—In the case of 383 parishes the distance which the children walk is less than a mile; in 250 parishes it is between a mile and a mile and a-half; in 201 it is between a mile and a half and two miles; in nine it is between two and a-half and three miles; in one it is between three and four miles. We are next told how many little parishes there are which have only cottage or dames' schools, and the populations of these parishes are shown. For example, it is interesting to know that of the 662 parishes which have such schools 16 per cent. have fewer inhabitants than 100, and 53 per cent. between 100 and 300. It is observed in the Report that in the dames' schools in small parishes the Church Catechism is taught, in addition to other subjects of a secular kind.

"'The clergy often provide the books used. The children are sometimes taken to church. Where the population of a parish is very small the clergy find that a dame's or cottage school is the only one practicable. If the area of a parish is extensive and the population in it is much scattered they find that two or three such schools at different points are best adapted to the wants of the case. The young children, especially on stormy or wet days, or when the lanes are partly blocked up with snow, could not walk miles to a national school. When they become older they generally go for their education to an adjoining parish.'

"We have, lastly, in Section 1 of this Report, a table which represents the educational destitution of England and Wales, so far as such destitution attaches to Church of England Schools. It is very small, for there are only 338 parishes in the whole of England and Wales which are not provided for; and 7 per cent. have populations under 100, 28 per cent. between 100 and 300, 19 per cent. between 300 and 500, and 17 between 500 and 1,000.

"From Section 2 it appears that, among the 14,709 parishes, there are 11,972 institutions or schools held on week-days, and having on their registers 1,505,856 scholars, the average attendance being 1,081,268 scholars. In parish or national week-day schools alone the Church of England has 1 in 14 of the population of England and Wales; but if we include night schools, the proportion is 1 in 13. These night schools are serving a useful purpose; for example, at page 19 we are told that when 1,051 such schools, containing 41,252 scholars, were examined, 7 per cent. of the said scholars had never been to week-day schools. The Church of England has 11,747 Sunday-schools, containing 1,258,771 scholars. In the Church week-day schools there are 18,751 masters and mistresses, of whom 34.7 per cent. are trained and 42.2 per cent. certificated. Teachers actually in charge of schools, though, perhaps, not trained, are, by the provisions of the Revised Code, permitted to compete for Government certificates; hence more are certificated than trained.

"As to the *income* of the national or parochial schools, we find that it annually amounts to 1,615,557l. An income of 834,888l was derived from its sources in the following proportions:—Endowments, 66,547l.; subscriptions and donations, 254,838l.; school-pence, 254,803l.; capitation grant from the State, 216,525l.; church collections, 42,175l. In the case of 2,939 schools the deficit in income, which their treasurers supplied, amounted to 52,777l., or an average of 18l. for each treasurer to make up. But Church education, according to one of the tables, has advanced at a very rapid rate. Taking week-day and night schools together, it appears that in Church national and parochial schools, the proportion of scholars to the population of England and Wales was 1 in 36.7 in 1831, 1 in 32.1 in 1837,

1 in 17.5 in 1847, 1 in 15.5 in 1857, and τ in 13 in 1867. The Report is a joint one, and is signed by Mr. Wilson and by Mr. John Flint, registrar of the Duke of Newcastle's Commission on Education."

VIII.—The Statistics of the London Bankers' Clearing House for Two Complete Years, May, 1867, to May, 1869.

THE following useful analysis is from the *Money Market Review* of 29th May, 1869. It must be remembered that the Clearing House figures only include one side of the account—that is to say, that the debits were in 1868-69, say 3,534 millions sterling, and were met by 3,534 millions of credits or contra items:—

- "The Clearing House Returns have now been issued for two complete years, and it may be useful, in the present condition of the money market, to note the evidence they afford as regards the extent of mercantile and speculative activity since May, 1867, when their publication commenced.
- "The total amount of the transactions settled by means of cheques and bills through the London Bankers' Clearing House for the year ending the 30th ult., reached the enormous sum of 3,534,039,000l., while for the previous twelve months it was 3,257,411,000l., so that the increase during the past year was 276,628,000l., showing an improvement on the total volume of the transactions of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
- "The total clearances on the fortnightly settling days in stocks and shares were, in the past twelve months, 550,622,000l, being an increase on the preceding year of 106,179,000l, or equal to nearly 24 per cent.; while the amount cleared, excluding those fortnightly account days in stocks and shares, was 2,983,417,000l, being an increase of 170,449,000l, or rather more than 6 per cent. on the corresponding days of the previous twelve months.
- "These figures demonstrate that, whilst the business on ordinary days has augmented only 6 per cent., the transactions on the fortnightly account days on the Stock Exchange have advanced, proportionately, four times as much. In th following tables, however, the analysis of these important statistics for the last two years is rendered with more distinctness, thus not only enabling us to ascertain in what class of transactions the greatest increase has taken place, but to observe the gradual progress which has been made in each department. The figures record the average daily clearances during successive periods of four months each, the calculation being made on the total number of days on which the Clearing House was open for business. Each interval of the past twelve months—as well as the year itself—is contrasted with the corresponding period of the previous year, and it is worthy of remark, that in every instance business has increased.
- "The following are the average daily amounts cleared in the respective periods, inclusive of all transactions settled:—

Four Months.	Cleared.	Four Months.	Cleared.	Increase.
	£ 10,958,000 11,014,000 12,137,000		£ 10,269,000 10,095,000 10,962,000	Per cnt. 6'71 9'10 10'71
Year ending April, 1869	11,363,000	Year ending April, 1868	10,440,000	8.84

"It will be observed that for the four months ending with December, 1867, the settlements were somewhat less than in the preceding four months, but a decided rebound was experienced in the succeeding period, and this was fairly supported until the end of 1868. During the four months ended April, 1869, the improvement, however, has been still more remarkable, the clearances being more than a million per day in excess of the previous period, and equal to an advance of $10\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the corresponding four months of 1868.

"We will next proceed to analyse or classify the figures, in order to ascertain as nearly as possible the relative progress on *ordinary* clearing days, as well as on those which have a special character. The following are the average clearances on the fortnightly 'account' or 'pay days' for stocks and shares on the Stock Exchange:—

Four Months.	Daily Average.	Four Months.	Daily Average.	Increase.
	£ 21,587,000 22,662,000 24,579,000		£ 17,154,000 17,232,000 21,170,000	Per cnt. 25.84 31.51 16.10
Year ending April, 1869	22,943,000	Year ending April, }	18,518,000	23.90

"Stock Exchange business here shows an uninterrupted improvement in each interval since May, 1867. The greatest advance occurred in the four months ending with April, 1868, the settlements, as compared with either of the two preceding periods, having augmented by an average of nearly four millions per day; these increased Clearances were, however, followed by further additions, and, in the first months of 1869 the daily average exceeded the average of the previous four months by nearly two millions, notwithstanding that the interval, ending with December, 1868, surpassed the summer period by an amount of more than a million per day. It must also be pointed out that the advance in the four months ended April, 1869, is all the more remarkable by reason of the new arrangement for settlements in foreign stocks, which came into operation at the end of December last, having considerably reduced the amount of the cheques cleared on 'account days.' Some evidence of the recent augmentation of Stock Exchange transactions is also observable in the next table, which gives the average daily clearances on the one day which followed the account day:—

Four Months.	Daily Average.	Four Months.	Daily Average.	Increase.
	£ 12,807,000 12,104,000 14,341,000		£ 11,316,000 11,414,000 12,480,000	Per cnt. 13°17 6°04 14°91
Year ending April, 1869	13,084,000	Year ending April, 1868	11,736,000	τ1.49

[&]quot;As compared with ordinary days, given in our concluding table, these Stock Exchange 'second days' are important ones. During the last four months a large augmentation has taken place in the average. No doubt the expansion of business has caused a greater proportion of transactions to be left over for completion on these second days.

[&]quot;An estimate of the increased magnitude of the speculation on the Stock

Exchange may be gathered by contrasting the first and last periods in these tables. Thus the total of the daily averages of the two days above referred to in the four months ended April, 1869, amounts to 38,920,000l., being 10,450,000l. in excess of the same days in the quarter ending August, 1867. As compared with the corresponding period of 1868, the increase is 5,270,000. The enlargement arises mainly from the late speculation in foreign stocks.

"We will next give the average daily clearances on the monthly account days' in consols;—

Four Months.	Daily Average.	Four Months.	Daily Average.	Increase.
	£ 10,896,000 11,053,000 12,272,000 11,272,000		10,939,000	Per cnt. 2:25 1:04 6:93 2:25

The variations in these amounts are not striking, but they exhibit an improving tendency.

"Another special and interesting feature of the returns issued by the Clearing House refers to the 4th of the month, or the day on which bills in connection with so many branches of our *Home trade* fall due. The following are the daily average clearances on 'inland bills' days':—

Four Months.	Daily Average.	Four Months.	Daily Average.	Increase.
Ending Aug., 1868 ,, Dec., '68 ,, April, '69	£ 12,527,000 13,652,000 14,286,000		£ 12,361,000 11,829,000 12,588,000	Per cnt. 1 34 15 41 13 49
Year ending April, 1869	13,488,000	Year ending April, 1868	12,259,000	10.02

A satisfactory and welcome improvement is also observable in this table.

"Our next and concluding figures show the average daily clearances on what are simply ordinary days—that is, exclusive of the special days noticed in the foregoing tables. By this means we may form an estimate of the relative progress of the general business of the country:—

Four Months.	Daily Average.	Four Months.	Daily Average.	Increase.
Ending Aug., 1868 ,, Dec., '68 ,, April, '69	9,607,000	Ending Aug., 1867 ,, Dec., '67 ,, April, '68		Per cnt. 3'11 5'48 9'25
Year ending April,] 1869	9,942,000	Year ending April, 1868	9,383,000	5.96

[&]quot;This table refers in no way to Stock Exchange business, and it is gratifying to observe an increase in general business operations. The early months of 1868

showed an advance on the last four months of 1867, represented by increased clearances averaging 559,000l. per day, the improvement being just over 6 per cent. This higher range was maintained throughout 1868, and has been followed in the first four months of 1869 by a further extension of transactions, the average daily amounts cleared having exceeded those of the four months ending in December last by 925,000l., or $9\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The relative increase during each interval of the past twelve months, as given in the last column, has been gradual and progressive."

IX.—The Railways of America.

"In an interesting article on this subject, the New York Times says :-

"There were in operation in all the States, on the 1st day of January, 1869, 42,255 miles of line, the cost of which, at \$44,000 per mile, equalled \$1,800,000,000. The total amount of net tonnage transported over them for the year equalled 75,000,000 tons, having a value of \$10,472,250,000—a sum equalling six times their cost, and more than four times greater than the whole amount of the national debt. The construction of these works upon a grand scale commenced with the discovery of gold in California, in 1848. The number of miles in operation in the country, on the 1st day of January of that year, was 5,599. The mileage annually constructed from the opening of the first section (23 miles) of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1830, to 1847 inclusive, equalled 311 miles. The yearly average opened from 1848 to 1860, inclusive, equalled 1,925 miles—the aggregate opened in this period being 25,037 miles. During the war the number of miles built equalled 3,273, or 818 miles annually. Since 1864, 8,347 miles have been opened, or 2,086 miles annually. The number of miles opened the past year equalled 2,979 miles. There are in progress fully 15,000 miles of line, of which at least 5,000 miles will be opened the present year. The ratio of mileage of these works to our total population is as 1 of the former to 876 of the latter. The ratio in the New England States is as 1 to 846; in the middle, 1 to 1,037; in the southern, 1 to 969; and in the western, 1 to 731. The State of New Hampshire has 1 mile of railroad to 500 inhabitants; the State of Nebraska, 1 to 163; and the State of Florida, 1 to 343. The State having the largest proportionate mileage is Massachusetts, which has I mile of road to 5:47 square miles of area. The State of Ohio has I mile of line to II'76 square miles. A ratio similar to that for Massachusetts would give to the whole country 600,000miles of line. One similar to that for Ohio, 300,000 miles. While such results are by no means to be realised for a long time to come, it is safe to predict that upon an area equalling 1,250,000 square miles of territory, railroads will be speedily built to an extent that will give, for such an area, the average for Ohio. Such a rate would call for only about double the mileage at present in operation. But rapid as has been the progress of these works, the extent of their tonnage traffic and the rapidity of its development are matters of still greater wonder. Vast as is this traffic, it dates almost wholly from 1851, the year in which the Erie Railroad was opened and the canal tolls removed from freight transported over the New York Central line. amount of net tonnage transported over all the railroads of the United States for

that year did not exceed 5,500,000 tons. The rate of increase from that year to the close of 1867, in which year 75,000,000 of tons were transported, exceeded 1,300 per cent. The tonnage traffic of all the roads in the country in 1858 equalled 18,750,000 tons. The increase in the decade commencing with this year consequently equalled 300 per cent. The tonnage of the railroads of the State of New York, for example, in 1858, equalled 3,473,725 tons; in 1867, 10,343,681 tons. In the mean there was only a very small addition to the mileage of the State. The traffic of the railroads of the other States showed a still more rapid increase. In the same period more than 12,000 miles of new line were opened. By adding the traffic of these lines to that of those previously in operation, the estimated rate of increase of 300 per cent. for the decade is fully sustained. The value of the tonnage for 1867 is estimated to equal that of the several classes of freight transported on the Erie Canal for that year (the value of which is carefully ascertained), or \$139.63 per ton. The aggregate value of the tonnage of all the roads equalled, consequently, the enormous sum of \$10,472,250,000. At a similar estimate, the value of the tonnage transported in 1851 equalled \$765,236,725; in 1858, \$3,096,762,500. The total increase in value of the tonnage transported in 1867 over that transported in 1851 equalled \$9,707,013,275, and \$7,375,487,500 over that transported in 1858. Incredible as would seem to be such results, their correctness is demonstrated beyond cavil. It is shown that the railroads transport, on an average, 2,000 tons to the mile. The tonnage of the railroads of Massachusetts, for 1867, equalled 5,394,137 tons, or 3,853 tons to the mile. That of the railroads of New York equalled 10,343,681 tons, or 3,501 tons to the mile. That of the railroads of Pennsylvania equalled 35,383,370 tons, or 7,864 tons to the mile. The tonnage borne on the railroads of those States having a mileage of 8,750 miles, equalled 51,121,140 tons, or 5,826 tons to the mile. The tonnage of most of the great roads far exceeded the estimate. The aggregate amount transported could not have been less than 100,000,000 tons. The total earnings of all the roads in the United States in 1851 equalled \$39,406,358. The receipts from freight and passengers were almost exactly balanced. The earnings from all sources in 1867 were \$400,000,000, of which \$280,000,000 were received from freight, and \$120,000,000 from passengers. The rapid increase of earnings from freight is a most favourable feature. The earnings of the English railways in 1851 were \$73,000,000, of which \$35,000,000 were from freight, and \$38,000,000 were from passengers. In 1867 their total earnings were \$190,000,000, of which \$105,000,000 were from freight, and \$85,000,000 from passengers. The ratio, in this country, of earnings from freight to earnings from passengers is as 2.2 to 1; in England is a little over 1.1 to 1. The earnings of American roads are more than twice greater than those of England. The railroad mileage of that country in 1867 was 14,247; in the United States, 39,276. The cost of the former equalled very nearly \$2,500,000,000, that of the railroads of the United States, for the same year, \$1,700,000,000. The earnings of the English roads upon their cost, equalled 7.86 per cent.; those of the United States very nearly 25 per cent. The English roads, however, have a great advantage over our own in operating expenses, their net earnings, as a rule, fully equalling one-half of the gross receipts. In this country the net cannot be estimated at over 30 per cent. of the receipts. The following statement presents in detail the various items entering into the cost of operating the railways of the two countries, the railroads of the State of New York being taken as representing those of our own:-

Items of Cost per Train, Mileage of Running Trains upon the Railroads of New York and Great Britain, for 1867.

	New York.	Great Britain.
Maintenance of way, including iron Repairs of engines and material Repairs of cars Wages of engineers and firemen Fuel Local taxes. All other charges	Cents. 49·50 17·35 21·18 8·36 22·60 5·50 42·62	Cents. 12.70 6'45 6'74 3'00 3'42 2'20 26'86
Total	166.00	61.37

The preceding statement shows that the cost per mile of operating the railroads of the State of New York to be two and a-half times greater than that of operating the railways of Great Britain. The earnings of our roads, however, per mile run, are nearly twice greater—the average earnings of the former being \$1 25c. per mile; of the latter, about \$2 30c. per mile. The most startling difference in the items of cost is in the matter of fuel, the cost of the same in America being 21.60 per mile; in England 3.42 per mile. Coke is almost exclusively used upon English roads, upon our own wood or raw coal; the former is a very expensive fuel, while the latter is very destructive to the engine."

^{**} Taken as reprinted in the Manchester Guardian.